

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306333
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 COME-00 SS-15 EB-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /045 R

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APPROVED BY EUR: RDVINE
C:JMONTGOMERY
COMMERCE/BEWT:DHASFURTHER
S/S: MR. BRIDGES

----- 052244 /74-61

P 180021Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306333

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRA, EEWT, GE, US

SUBJECT: GDR INTEREST IN PROLONGED STAYS BY TECHNICAL
PERSONNEL

REF: BERLIN 7244; BERLIN 6666

1. DISCUSSION OF QUESTION OF RESIDENT GDR TECHNICIANS
WITH STATE SECRETARY BEIL WAS BASED ON DEPARTMENT'S
ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION OF BRUNO OTTE (BERLIN 6666).
WHEN BEIL RAISED THE MATTER IN WASHINGTON, HIS
DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE GDR HAD IN MIND SUGGESTED THAT,
AS IN OTTE CASE, THE GDR WAS IN EFFECT PROPOSING
ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUSINESS OFFICE UNDER ANOTHER NAME.
OUR RESPONSE TO BEIL WAS THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD
NOT BE POSSIBLE.

2. THE PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN BERLIN 7244 APPEARS TO
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FORESEE STATIONING OF PERSONNEL WHO WOULD PERFORM ONLY
TECHNICAL SERVICE WORK ON MACHINERY ALREADY IN PLACE.
DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT THERE IS A JUSTIFICATION FOR
PROLONGED STAYS IN THE UNITED STATES BY SUCH TECHNICAL
SERVICE PERSONNEL. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN EMBASSY'S
VIEW THAT A POSITIVE RESPONSE COULD ENCOURAGE THE GDR

TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON HUMANITARIAN CASES AND IN
OTHER AREAS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE
THAT, ASSUMING GDR REQUEST CONCERNS LEGITIMATE TECHNICAL
SERVICE PERSONNEL AND THAT THE APPLICANTS MEET NORMAL
CRITERIA FOR A US VISA, DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING
TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO APPLICATIONS
MENTIONED IN BERLIN 7244. IN ORDER TO MAKE POSSIBLE
FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATIONS WE WILL NEED AS
MUCH DETAIL ABOUT THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND PLACE OF
BUSINESS OF THE TECHNICANS AS POSSIBLE. OUR FINAL
DECISION ON THE APPLICATIONS WOULD AWAIT STUDY OF THESE
DETAILS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, PERSONNEL TRAINING, VISAS, VISITS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE306333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKORNBLUM:DHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760465-0838
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761230/aaaaazqb.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BERLIN 7244, 76 BERLIN 6666
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR INTEREST IN PROLONGED STAYS BY TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
TAGS: BTRA, EEWT, GC, US, (OTTE, BRUNO)
To: BERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006